

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Method for the preparation of crosslinked enzyme aggregates, comprising the steps of:

A – providing a plurality of enzyme molecules of enzymes,

B – aggregating the enzymes in a liquid medium, comprising a precipitating agent, thereby forming aggregated enzymes,

C – crosslinking the aggregated enzymes to one another by providing a crosslinking agent in the liquid medium,

wherein the crosslinking agent is prepared by ~~combining~~ reacting a first and a second compound with each other, each having at least two reactive groups, the reactive groups of the first compound being primary amino groups, the reactive groups of the second compound being aldehyde groups.

Claim 2 (Original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the first compound comprises at least two carbon atoms, the termini of the backbone being defined as α and ω , respectively, the said termini both comprising the active groups.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the first compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of diaminoalkanes, triamines, aromatic diamines, diamines having at least one hetero atom between the amino groups, and branched diamines.

Claim 4 (Original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the second compound is a dialdehyde.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the second compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glutaraldehyde, glyoxal, 2,3-pentadione, 2,4-pentadione, 2,4-hexadione, 3,4-hexadione, 3-methyl-2,4-pentadione, and 3-ethyl-2,4-pentadione.

Claim 6 (Original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the crosslinking agent is prepared in a substantially protein free environment.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the second and the first compound are combined in a molar ratio of 10-1:1.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 1, wherein the enzyme molecules are selected from the group consisting of lipases, esterases, proteases, nitrilases, oxynitrilases, penicillin amidases and amino acylases.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): Crosslinked enzyme aggregates, obtainable by claim 1.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): Crosslinking agent prepared by ~~combining~~ reacting a first and a second compound each having at least two reactive groups, the reactive groups of the first compound being primary amino groups, the reactive groups of the second compound being aldehyde groups.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): Crosslinking agent according to claim 10, wherein the first compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of diaminoalkanes, triamines, aromatic diamines, diamines having at least one hetero atom between the amino groups, and branched diamines.

Claim 12 (Previously Presented): Crosslinking agent according to claim 10, wherein the second compound is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of glutaraldehyde, glyoxal, 2,3-pentadione, 2,4-pentadione, 2,4-hexadione, 3,4-hexadione, 3-methyl-2,4-pentadione, and 3-ethyl-2,4-pentadione.

Claim 13 (Cancelled).

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 7, wherein the molar ratio is 4-1:1.

Claim 15 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 14, wherein the molar ratio is 2.5-1.5:1.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 15, wherein the molar ratio is 2:1.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method of crosslinking a protein to another protein, comprising crosslinking with the crosslinking agent according to claim 10.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): Method of crosslinking a protein to a carrier, comprising crosslinking with the crosslinking agent according to claim 10.

Claim 19 (Previously Presented): Method according to claim 18, wherein the carrier is a solid carrier.

Claim 20 (New): Crosslinked enzyme aggregates, obtained by claim 1.

Claim 21 (New): Method according to claim 1, wherein in step C, the crosslinking agent is prepared prior to crosslinking the aggregated enzymes to one another.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the crosslinking agent is prepared by --reacting--, the first and second compounds --with each other--, as supported in the specification at, for example, [0013] and [0025]. In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to provide antecedent basis, where applicable. Claim 10 has been amended to be consistent with the amendment to Claim 1. Claim 20 has been added, analogous to Claim 9, but reciting --obtained--instead of "obtainable". Finally, Claim 21 has been added, as supported at [0023].

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. Claims 1-12 and 14-21 are now pending in the application.